

Mr. Lumber-jack Will Have to Hustle

Lumbermen Must Turn Out Ten Billion More Feet a Year to Meet Demand for Home Building

Photos by UNDERWOOD LUNDENBERG

MR. LUMBERJACK will have to hustle! That is the publicly expressed opinion among the experts in every line of business connected with building. They say among other things:

That the demand for homes in the United States is nation-wide.

That 800,000 homes should have been built at the normal rate in the last two years and that only 50,000 were actually built, leaving a shortage that is estimated at fully 750,000 homes.

That from 500,000 to 550,000 homes must be now built yearly to make up the shortage and to get back to the normal rate.

That 50,000,000 feet of lumber, board measure, will have to be cut yearly, instead of 40,000,000 feet, which is the normal rate.

That an increase in the lumber output of 10,000,000 feet a year will certainly make the lumberjack hustle.

The experts do not agree as to figures in all cases. But it is evident that the shortage in homes is very large. At the recent real estate convention in Atlantic City inadequate housing facilities were reported from all parts of the country and the shortage in homes was put at 1,000,000.

Again, it should be remembered that the ordinary demands of manufacturers for lumber are also to be met.

That the demand of devastated Europe for lumber will undoubtedly stimulate export from this country.

While all the lumberjacks of the country will have to hustle, it looks as if the biggest activity will be demanded from the lumberjacks of the Pacific coast, where most of the lumber comes from nowadays.

The pictures show scenes in Idaho and Washington. The mountain lumber camp is 4,000 feet up in northern Idaho and there is still snow on the ground in June. The trainload of logs is on a narrow-gauge road in the Idaho pine forests near Fernwood. The three magnificent yellow pines are in a logging region near Spokane. Yellow pine is the principal source of lumber in eastern Washington. The normal production of yellow pine is about 16,000,000,000 feet (board measure) a year. It is figured that this output will have to be increased to about 20,000,000,000 feet. Some of the white pine trees near Spokane are five feet in diameter and 175 feet high. The largest white pine belt left in the United States is in northern Idaho. Some of the largest and best-equipped sawmills in the country are in this Washington-Idaho district.

This housing problem is a big one—so big that it may lead to action by the federal government. The department of labor, in announcing in January that 500,000 new dwelling houses were needed, had this to say:

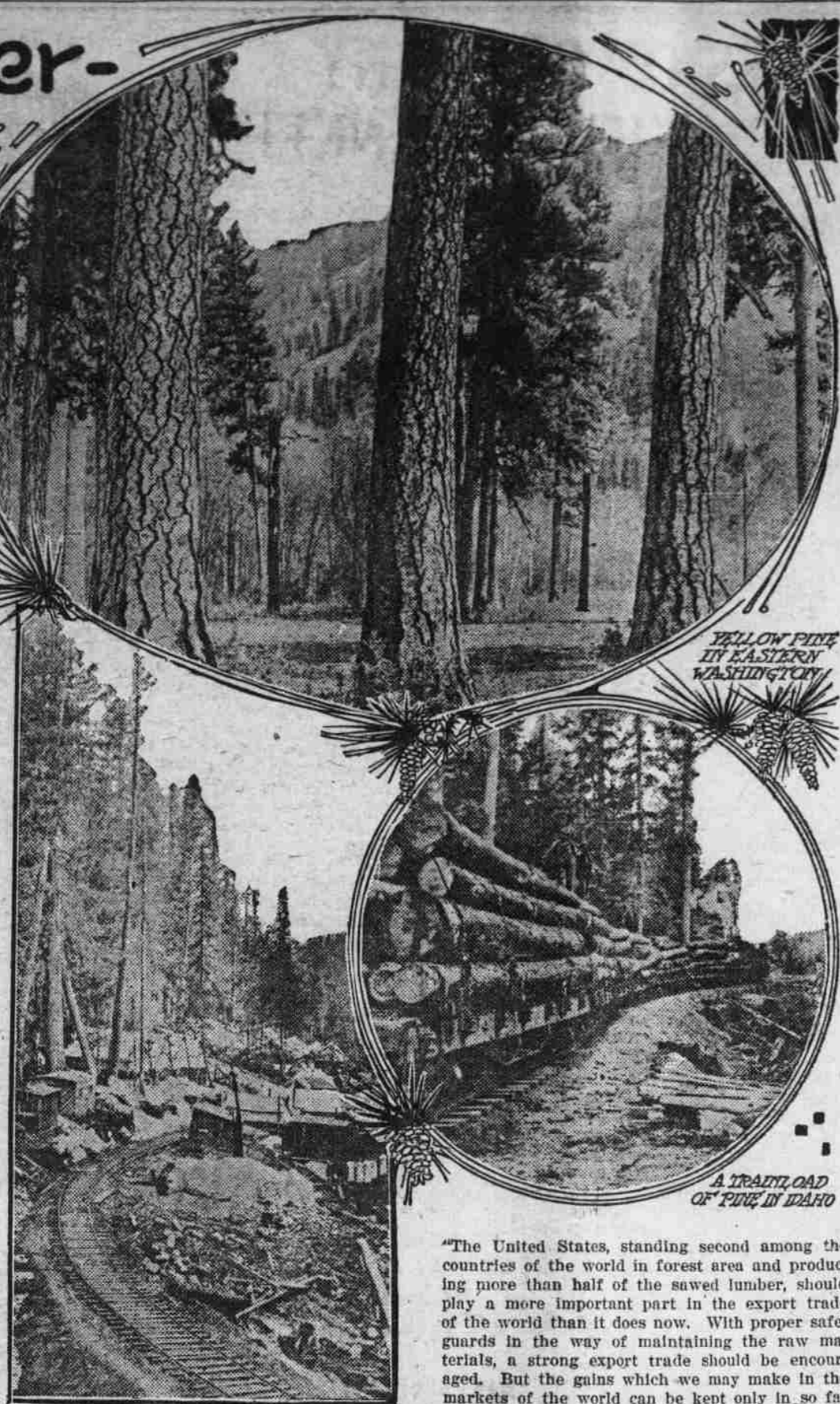
"Two billion dollars, available for loans to home builders, would go far in providing the necessary capital for the building of these dwellings. Securities of a value approximating \$2,000,000,000 are held by the constituent organizations in the United States League of Building and Loan Associations. Labor conditions, manufacturing, and social needs clearly indicate the desirability of an immediate acceleration of building activities throughout the country.

"By making available capital necessary to building, a tentative plan may materialize in a national system of 'home loan banks.' The plan contemplates the creation of a bank in each federal reserve district, similar to the land banks created under the federal farm loan act, with which a local building and loan association could deposit collateral, receiving in exchange home loan bonds."

The announcement has been made in Washington by Louis K. Sherman, president of the United States Housing corporation, that the land in various cities which was to have been utilized by the government in its war emergency building program is to be sold to home seekers for the erection of private houses. The conditions governing the sale of such property are that there is a real demand for houses in the community and that the construction of homes will be started immediately following the sale. The lots are to be sold publicly. Complete sets of plans, prepared by architects for the housing corporation, will be furnished with the various lots.

Grosvenor Atterbury has some interesting things to say on this problem. He is known as an architect of international reputation. He is a member of the board of directors of the National Housing association, chairman of the war-time housing committee, member of the National City Planning Institute, member of the French Council of Architects and Engineers on the problem of reconstruction in the devastated regions and a member of the New York tenement house commission. For 15 years, under various appropriations, beginning with the Henry Phipps enterprises and then with the Russell Sage foundation, he has spent a large part of his time in research work and experiments in the possibilities of quantity production of the small house suitable for workmen. These practical studies and demonstrations have involved the expenditure of two or three hundred thousand dollars. He says among other things:

"We will make no substantial progress toward the solution of the industrial housing problem until we apply to the production of the small



MOUNTAIN LUMBER CAMP IN JUNE

house the same principles of standardization, machine, factory and quantity production that are employed by all other great industries.

"Most experts agree that the real crux of the industrial housing problem lies not in land cost, taxes or interest rates, but in the house itself—the cost of construction. The investment in building is anywhere from three to ten times the cost of the land, and is therefore the dominant item and the most potent factor in the entire problem. It is all very well to eliminate the waste in the other factors—waste of time, labor or material—but if the productivity of human labor and capital in construction can be increased the result would be a real step toward the solution of the difficulty and the benefits of such an economy would accrue to all parties involved.

"That the 'ready-made' house will come eventually is evident from the progress made. The first experimental building designed to demonstrate the principle of standardization and factory production was successfully erected in 1909. Since then the work of demonstration and development has proceeded, with the general result always pointing, in my judgment, to the soundness of the principles and their ultimate success.

"The help we need ought to come from a government research department established for that purpose. This department would have to bear the same relation to housing, which is commodity, that the department of agriculture bears to wheat or the bureau of mines to minerals. In other words, the housing of the industrial army is as important in peace as that of the munition workers in war times or the fighting units themselves. And for these purposes the government spent hundreds of millions of dollars—and established a special department. It is a fair question whether the importance of the problem today does not justify the establishment of a permanent bureau of housing."

"What effect will this increased activity of the lumberjack have on our lumber supply?" is an important question.

The exportation of American lumber on the scale likely to result from the European demand for material will, unless accompanied by provision for regrowth, seriously deplete the supplies needed by home industries and impose hardships on the consuming public here, is the view of Henry S. Graves, chief of the United States forest service.

The department of agriculture has issued a pamphlet by Colonel Graves warning the wood-using industries, the lumbermen and all interested in home supplies of forest products or foreign trade in them, that the question of lumber exports cannot safely be left to the care of itself. The situation is especially critical, he points out, with certain of our highest grade woods, such as ash, oak, hickory, yellow poplar and black walnut, which are the support of important industries, and with southern yellow pine, of which the main bulk of supply is approaching exhaustion and which is likely to be exported in large quantities to meet after-the-war demands.

The situation, Colonel Graves holds, is one of ominous possibilities. "Most of the leading industrial nations of the world," he says, "whether lightly wooded and dependent upon imports or heavily wooded and exporters, are taking steps to safeguard and develop their timber resources. The United States alone appears to be content to build up a great export trade without considering the ultimate effect upon domestic timber resources and their capacity in the future to supply the home market."

Sound public policy does not, however, necessarily demand the discouragement of exports.

"The United States, standing second among the countries of the world in forest area and producing more than half of the sawed lumber, should play a more important part in the export trade of the world than it does now. With proper safeguards in the way of maintaining the raw materials, a strong export trade should be encouraged. But the gains which we may make in the markets of the world can be kept only in so far as they are based on a permanent supply of timber. If they are to be based merely on a cut which, as in the case of old-growth southern pine, will not supply even our domestic needs for more than the next ten or fifteen years, we shall soon be crowded out of the foreign markets by countries which base their export trade on a continuous self-perpetuating resource."

Europe's emergency need for lumber, above its consumption in normal times, is put at about 7,000,000,000 feet of lumber a year for the near future, a conservative estimate; and her own forests have been depleted by the war.

Europe, however, needs cheap lumber above all, and our product will not be attractive for the principal needs of reconstruction, according to Colonel Graves. Nevertheless, the world situation in lumber, he says, offers "an undoubted opportunity for a permanent export trade from this country of proportions that would seem to be limited only by our own powers to sustain the production of saw material."

Senator Sherman presented to the senate the other day a memorial from the Illinois legislature, which was in part as follows:

"Whereas the wood-using industries not depending upon uncertain local forest supplies have become centered to a very large extent in the thickly populated districts east of the Mississippi river and are drawing their supplies from the remaining forests in the eastern states, the gulf states and the states adjacent to the Great Lakes. A large number of such industries are located in the state of Illinois, with the city of Chicago the center of a very large and important group. Chicago has for many years been the chief lumber distribution point of the United States and the greatest point of lumber distribution in the world. These important industries, including the manufacture of railway cars, boxes, sashes and doors, farm machinery, furniture, pianos, vehicles, and many other articles, are now threatened by the exhaustion of the forests from which their supplies have been drawn. They now face the necessity of bringing timber from the Pacific coast with heavy freight charges added to the cost. To the same Pacific coast supply the country must look for lumber for general construction purposes. The transportation system of the country must add to its present burdens the transcontinental shipment of very large quantities of lumber, a bulky product upon which a high freight rate greatly increases the cost to the consumer.

"Resolved, That the Fifty-first general assembly of the state of Illinois urges the attention of the president and the congress of the United States to the present timber situation and recommends that, without delay, there be formulated such a national program of forestry as will insure the future timber supplies required by the industries of the country. As an example of what should be done, this general assembly points to the wise course of the republic of France in so managing its forests for more than a century that they contributed substantially to the winning of the great war.

"It is further urged that the federal government, acting independently or in co-operation with the states, inaugurate action looking toward such measure of public control of the remaining bodies of original timber as will make sure that their supplies will be available as needed by the industries.

"It is furthermore urged that comprehensive plans be put into effect for restoring the forest on cut-over lands which are nonagricultural in character in the eastern states, in the states bordering the Great Lakes, and in the South, in order that timber supplies from these regions may be available to the established industries of the central and eastern states."

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The Flavor Lasts

HAD FORGOTTEN HIS PART AS IT LOOKED TO BROTHER

But Mr. Newrich Was in Evidence at Dramatic Performance, as He Had Insisted.

Sister Was Doing What Pretty Well All of Us Would Like to Do.

Mr. Corpulent Newrich offered to finance the performance of his daughters' dramatic society, and his announcement was received with acclamation.

But when he added the provision that he paid the expenses on condition that he was given a part the joy diminished.

Mr. Newrich was well endowed with wealth, but his vocabulary did not include a single "h."

They argued, but Mr. Newrich stood firm. "No part, no money," was his decision.

At last they hit on a plan. He was to come on in the second scene and just say "Silence!" He could not go far wrong with that. Mr. Newrich was satisfied. He would be in evidence at the performance.

The great day arrived and all went well until the curtain rose on the second scene.

From the wing strode Mr. Newrich. Holding up his hand, he uttered one word: "Ush!"—London Answers.

Cruel but Practical Limit.
Mistress—Are you willing to serve humanity?
Bridget—Only two in the family, mum.

The deepest waters are least heard.

A Muncie family is contemplating the remodeling of its house. Several architects have been calling with plans during the last few days—all very successful architects, too. The other day one who "looked especially good" to the younger children arrived. That noon they discussed him at the family table. "Oh, he's rich," ventured one of the youngsters.

"Why?" smiled the elder sister—just twenty.

"Why he looks so prosperous," came back the answer, to the amusement of the rest of the family.

That afternoon the architect made a return trip and displayed his plans to the elder sister. The high-school boy arrived while the two of them were on the veranda looking over the plans. After the architect had gone he strolled over to his sister and remarked: "I see you're trying to get close to prosperity yourself."—Indianapolis News.

Doing a Man's Part.
"What are you doing for our cause?" asked a suffragette worker.
"Doing?" replied the man. "I'm supporting one of your most enthusiastic members."

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